MORTON LAKE PROVINCIAL PARK

PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

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Approved by:

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MORTON LAKE PROVINCIAL PARK
Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

Primary Role
The **primary** role of Morton Lake Provincial Park is to provide lake-oriented recreational opportunities in a forested setting on Vancouver Island. Morton Lake is located in the Campbell River destination area and complements the recreation opportunities provided by Elk Falls Provincial Park, Loveland Bay Provincial Park, McIvor Lake Regional Park, Snowden Demonstration Forest and the Sayward Forest Canoe Route. Here, two warm water lakes offer fishing, camping, boating, swimming, picnicking and hiking opportunities. With a 24-unit campground, boat launch, sandy beach, and access to both Morton Lake and Mohun Lake, it is very popular with fishing enthusiasts and day use visitors. Given its proximity, it is a popular staging area to the Sayward Forest Canoe Route.

Secondary Role
The **secondary** role is to protect the natural environment in which people come to recreate. Given the size of this park, it makes a small contribution to the protection of Coastal Western Hemlock (CWH) xm2, which has only 4% protected provincially. The CWH xm2 biogeoclimatic variant is primarily located on the east side of Vancouver Island and has been highly modified. Not much of this subzone remains intact on Vancouver Island and any protected area that contributes to its protection may be considered important.

Management Issues

Known Management Issue	Response
Lack of detailed knowledge of natural and cultural values	➢ Undertake inventory of natural and cultural values. Include First Nations in development of cultural inventory.
Development of surrounding forest lands and impacts on park values and scenic values	➢ Work with the Forest Service and industry to ensure protection of park values and visual resources.
Deteriorating facilities	➢ Redevelop facilities to provide a safe and environmentally sound facility.
Poorly maintained road access	➢ Work with Forest Service and forest companies to maintain access to park.

Zoning

Intensive Recreation Zone – covers the campground and day use area (approximately 18 ha or 24% of the park). The objective of this zone is to provide for a variety of readily accessible, facility-oriented outdoor recreation opportunities.

Natural Environment Zone – encompasses the remainder of the park (approximately 56 ha or 76% of the park) in recognition of the natural values. The objective of this zone is to protect scenic values and to provide recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment.

Conservation

Representation - ecosection	☒	Minimal contribution (0.05%) to the representation of the well-represented Leeward Island Mountains Ecosection (16% protected)
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant	☒	Contributes minimally to representation of the under-represented CWHxm2 (only 4% in the protected areas system); Morton Lake contributes only 0.26% to the overall representation of this ecosystem but is important due to the fragmented nature of this ecosystem and the limited opportunities available for protection.
Special Feature	☒	Riparian
Rare/Endangered Values	☐	None known at this time
Scientific/Research Opportunities	☐	None known at this time

Recreation

Representation		
backcountry	☐	Not Applicable
destination	☒	Start of the Sayward Forest Canoe Route
travel corridor	☐	Not Applicable
local recreation	☒	Regional day use and camping
Special Opportunities	☐	None known at this time
Education/Interpretation Opportunities	☒	Shoreline processes

Cultural Heritage

Representation	☐	Values not well known
Special Feature	☐	None known at this time

Other Management Considerations

Other Designations	☐	Not Applicable
Relationship to other PAs	☒	Part of a system of protected areas in the Campbell River destination area of Vancouver Island which complement other recreation opportunities such as the Sayward Forest Canoe Route
Co-operative Management Arrangements	☐	Not Applicable

Partnerships	☐	Not Applicable
Vulnerability	☒	Small size limits the ability to protect ecosection and biogeoclimatic variant
Relationship to other Strategies	☐	Not Applicable

Area: 74 hectares

Date of establishment: November 28, 1966

Zoning Map - Morton Lake Provincial Park

Projection: Albers Equal Areas
Datum: NAD83

Intensive Recreation
Natural Environment
Protected Area Boundary

Produced in Jan 2003 for Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection by MSRM Decision Support Services

This is a visual representation only and should not be used for legal purposes.